

SIGNAL

August 1993 Volume 2 Number 8

The Presidents's Column

Well, we've been moving along through the summer but the activities haven't diminished. The Manchester ARRL Convention seemed to have quite a crowd and 100+ people took some 200+ exam elements on the Saturday. Since I was a VE that day I didn't get to see much. Just as a point of comparison on the exams—at Dayton less than 100 took exams in two days and everyone was pre-registered.

Sunday I did get into some of the forums and participated in my first fox hunt. The fox hunt was a lot of fun and I plan to do more of it. Most people used only a two meter handheld, so it doesn't take fancy equipment to do. It was quite a sight in the park across the street. The locals were sitting in the park and all these "crazy" people were wandering around the park. Sometimes they would stop, then spin around in circles, then run off in another direction. On top of that, they were looking under the bushes, in the trash cans, etc.

I've started to build a couple of more specialized devices for this and a fox. If there is enough interest we could do some club hunts. To prove that anyone can compete let me say that I came close. I walked by it and was about 20 feet away when someone came up behind and spotted it. Our first batch of QSL's went out which is great. I hope that enough people will do this to warrant monthly shipments. I was running four to six months between mailings, which adds unnecessarily to the total cycle time.

In writing this I was looking back and just realized that last month was my one year anniversary in the radio hobby. Time has really flown and I still don't have DXCC. hi hi

73 Stan, KD1LE

Classy Junque

We have decided to start a Classy Junque drawing at each meeting. Usually it will be covered and a sur-

prise for the lucky winner. It may, and probably will, be junk from someone's basement or toy box. Occasionally, there may even be something of value. After all...one man's junk is often another man's treasure. Witness the Flea markets.

The way it works is very simple. Someone will be passing out slips of paper at the beginning of each meeting. Put your callsign on it and drop it in the bag, can, hat or what have you that night. The President will, at some point during the meeting, cause a callsign to be drawn and... Walla, you're a winner!

Treasurer's Report

We're solvent. As of 7/31/93 we have \$879.95 in the bank and \$25.67 in petty cash. There are no outstanding bills that I know of. In September we have to renew our Insurance at about \$250. Our only recurring expense at this time is postage for the newsletter and other correspondence.

Need Help?

Is your W1AW Receiver Kit built and working like you expected it to? If not bring it to the Club meeting in August and get some help! I will be able to help you with your soldering touchup and with the tuning. Just be sure that your battery is good and the parts are in the correct locations and we'll make it work!

Ben, KB1FJ

This month's speaker

Membership Survey Results and Auto Security

One presenter, two topics. Scott Pyles, WX1J will present the findings from the NVARC Member Opinion Survey. This should be an interesting view of the club members opinions about a variety of topics

and ideas about the direction that NVARC should take over the next year.

Here are a few early findings--

1. Out of 60 members 26 responded:

Novice--9
Technician--20
General--5
Advanced--9
Extra--17

2. A higher percentage of women responded than did men:

5 Women In Club, 3 Responded
55 Men in Club, 23 Responded

3. Most frequently asked to start doing--interactive activities.

4. Most frequently asked to stop doing--long business meetings.

5. Average number of clubs members belong to--1.4

Each question asked on the survey will be presented briefly with time for a little discussion. Handout survey results will be made available at the meeting. Some results were pretty obvious, some were quite surprising. This should be an interesting turning point for NVARC. Come be a part of the unveiling.

The second topic will be one that should interest every ham. Especially if you operate a mobil rig. People focus on car theft, and while a car is stolen every 18 seconds in the U.S. (one out of every 115 cars). What is most often ignored is an even more staggering crime statistic about theft of valuables from vehicles. And then for the stout hearted, an even more alarming statistic about crimes against people, robbery and assault.

Scott will give a brief presentation on auto-related crime, vehicle security systems in general and some ideas for inexpensive, effective ways you can protect your investment in equipment as well as your car, and most importantly yourself and your family.

Scott is a frequent speaker at electronics industry workshops and seminars. He has also logged nearly 200 hours on commercial radio station talk shows and community affairs programs nationally, informing consumers about actions each of us can take to reduce the chances of being a victim of crime.

ARRL/VEC Test Summary

The official results of the ARRL Convention VE session are presented below. Of the 124 candidates who

participated 62 achieved upgrades. The session produced 27 Techs, 18 Tech+, 5 Generals, 5 Advanced, 7 Extras. This was all accomplished in less than six hours of testing! This session also marked the first time ever that computerized, tractor fed CSSE forms were used. Kudos to the hard working VEs that donated their time to make this effort such a rousing success!

	Passed	Failed	Total
1A	10	6	16
1B	8	7	15
1C	6	6	12
2	43	7	50
3A	41	29	70
3B	13	8	21
4A	6	7	13
4B	11	3	14
Total	138	73	211

Technician Notes

Hi, I'm back with more Novice, I mean Technician, Notes (I upgraded). While on vacation in Upstate New York I found out that there are practically no 440 repeaters there. Most are 2 meter, and they also have a lot, and I mean a lot of packet frequencies. They had at least 12 different packet stations that I could hit from my QTH. It was really amazing how much packet interest there was.

Ten meters has had several nice openings recently. Just a few nights ago (around 5 p.m. local time) I worked Newfoundland, Toronto Ontario, and Costa Rica. My favorite recent contacts are North and South Dakota, Wyoming, and Colorado. All of these stations had between a 5.5-5.9+ signal—the band was that good. It lasted from 10:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. I talked to N. and S. Dakota one after the other and the same goes for Wyoming and Colorado. The new Cushcraft A3S 3-element beam up 10 feet (yes, 10 feet) worked fine. It's temporarily ground-mounted since my dad just wanted to make sure it worked before mounting it on top of the house. Boy, is it working!

Ben, KB1ATH, and I are very active on 10 meters. You might have seen my bulletin on PEPMBX. We meet every Wednesday on 28.42 or 28.44 at 7:30PM. We have a net of about 5 people and we talk about contacts we've made, etc. It's a lot of fun. You know the saying, "The more the merrier." Hope to C U there.

I upgraded July 11th at Ft. Devens. The examiners were K1JHC, WA1RHP and KD1OU—the three Tom's. That's about it from this end so...

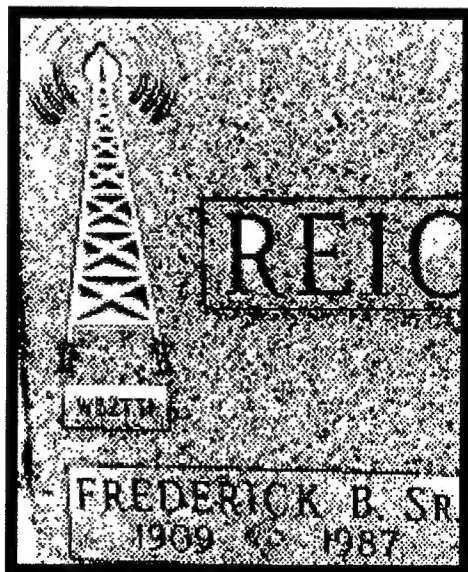
73's Jeremy, KB1AWE/KT

The Editor's Corner

Well, vacation is over and its back to the old grind. Thought I'd share a few things with you from our vacation in Upstate New York. First, let's define what I mean by "Upstate New York." If you happen to come from the New York City area "Upstate" means Poughkeepsie and points North. Well, I'm from the "real" Upstate New York. Although still a little open to interpretation, "Upstate", to me, is generally anything North of the NYS Thruway (the continuation of the Mass Pike). Our vacation QTH was a small camp on Panther Lake. This lake is about 20 miles North of Syracuse and is about a mile long and half mile wide.

Jeremy and I basically took the whole station with us to Panther Lake. HF coverage was provided by a G5RV strung up between two very large pine trees while VHF/UHF support was provided by a Cushcraft AR-270 perched on 4 five-foot mast sections. The amazing thing was that it all worked! We talked with numerous local HAMs on VHF/UHF, did a lot of packet, and Jeremy continued his 10 meter obsession. Our local contacts tipped us off to several HAMfests. We even attended the one for the Utica-Rome area. BTW (we had our NVARC badges with us) we were the only "one land" participants.

While we were in New York I did some genealogical research. One thing this involved was visiting a few graveyards to verify dates, etc. While at the cemetery where a lot of my predecessors have made their final resting place I happened upon the grave of Frederick B. Reichard, Sr.. What caught my eye was his memo



rial. It had a radio tower and his call (WB2TTF) prominently engraved upon it.

I traced down Fred's widow, Edna, to obtain clearance to use a picture of the monument. She agreed and also mentioned that Fred had two sons, Dean and Robert, that are also HAMs. I talked with Dean (WD2AFI) and he told me that his dad had held a ticket for over 35 years and that his brother, William, had also been licensed. Fred had been very active in 6 meter RACES, MARS, and many other public service activities. He was also a long standing member and past officer of the Fulton [NY] Amature Radio Club. Clearly a man who had enjoyed the hobby—73's to you Fred.



Nashoba Valley Amature Radio Club

President:	Stan Pozerski, KD1LE
Vice President:	Scott Pyles, WX1J
Secretary:	Duane Long, KD1JY
Treasurer:	Ben Akins, KB1FJ

Meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Pepperell VFW hall.

This newsletter is published monthly. Submissions, corrections, and inquiries should be directed to the newsletter editor, Roger Bisbo, N1OJW. Articles and graphics in most IBM-PC formats are acceptable.

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